

REMARKS

The present application is entitled to a priority date of November 26, 2002. Entitlement to this priority date is perfected by the filing herewith of a verified translation of Japanese priority Application No. 2002-341609, filed that date.

Reconsideration is accordingly respectfully requested, for the rejection of certain of the claims as anticipated by or unpatentable over FUNADA et al. U.S. 2004/0037334. The FUNADA et al. application was filed August 22, 2003, subsequent to our priority date. Hence, FUNADA et al. is no longer available for reference purposes.

There being no other rejection or objection of record, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No. 8023-1023
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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- verified translation of Japanese priority Application No.

2002-341609